



Rep. Maurice A. West, II

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 624

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 624 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Home
5 for Good Act.

6 Section 5. Findings.

7 (a) The General Assembly recognizes the following:

8 (1) The Illinois prison system releases 15,000 people
9 each year, but without a cogent and unified statewide
10 system to support housing security and reduce the risk of
11 recidivism.

12 (2) A 2025 Loyola University Chicago Study found that
13 between 66% and 80% of individuals incarcerated in the
14 Illinois Department of Corrections experienced housing
15 instability or homelessness within 3 years prior to their
16 incarceration, making them at risk of homelessness after

1 prison as well.

2 (3) Returning residents often struggle to access
3 housing and stable jobs because of State laws and policies
4 that permit housing discrimination against people with
5 records. For example, the Illinois Human Rights Act only
6 protects people with arrest records from housing-related
7 discrimination, but offers no such protections to persons
8 with conviction records.

9 (4) The current U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
10 Development policy on homelessness also creates barriers
11 that prevent formerly incarcerated individuals from
12 accessing permanent housing programs through the homeless
13 system.

14 (5) A 2023 study of the Illinois Criminal Justice
15 Information Authority found that formerly incarcerated
16 people have an average unemployment rate of 45% and lower
17 annual wages, with Black individuals who are formerly
18 incarcerated having the highest rates of unemployment.

19 (6) As a result, many people cannot comply with the
20 conditions of release, or they turn to the underground
21 economy to support themselves and their families.

22 (7) Research shows that housing instability,
23 homelessness, unemployment, and low wages are among the
24 factors that contribute to the nearly 40% of previously
25 incarcerated people returning to prison within 3 years.

26 (8) According to a Spring 2025 Illinois Sentencing

1 Policy Advisory Council report, Illinois taxpayers already
2 pay \$89,408 annually for each person incarcerated in State
3 prisons.

4 (9) When a person returns to prison, the total cost
5 rises to \$200,000, including direct and indirect costs,
6 resulting in unnecessary and expensive costs for all
7 Illinoisans.

8 (10) The State government has a responsibility to
9 increase community safety and individual and family
10 well-being by addressing the housing needs of persons
11 leaving incarceration.

12 (11) Affordable, safe, and stable housing is a
13 fundamental necessity for successful reentry and family
14 stability.

15 (12) Affordable, safe, and stable housing for
16 returning residents also improves and promotes public
17 safety.

18 (13) Without a dedicated commitment of affordable,
19 safe, and stable housing providing a mix of transitional
20 and permanent affordable housing that is informed by the
21 housing needs and policy perspectives of returning
22 residents, the State is failing to meet the needs of its
23 residents and communities.

24 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes that there are
25 several independent strategies in place now that increase
26 access to safe, affordable housing for returning residents and

1 improve and promote public safety, including:

2 (1) The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA),
3 as administrator of the Rental Housing Support Program,
4 created the Re-Entry Program, providing 81 Reentry Rental
5 Housing Support Program subsidies across the State with
6 the support of housing navigators who build relationships
7 with landlords and connect returning residents to
8 resources to support their success.

9 (2) IHDA's Housing for Justice Involved Individuals
10 Program provides grants to community organizations to
11 acquire, build, or rehabilitate housing for the purpose of
12 creating transitional reentry housing beds across the
13 State, resulting in over 500 beds statewide.

14 (3) IHDA's Housing Task Force added "justice-involved
15 individuals" as a priority population for IHDA's 2026
16 Annual Comprehensive Housing Plan.

17 (4) The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act created the
18 Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program, which reinvests
19 a portion of cannabis tax revenue into communities in
20 order to reduce gun violence through intervention and
21 prevention, improve reentry and diversion services for
22 people involved with the criminal justice system, provide
23 access to legal representation and advice, encourage
24 investment and economic growth, enhance youth development,
25 and support programs that improve the social determinants
26 of health.

1 (5) Through the 2026 R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity
2 (CSFA Number 546-00-2378), the Illinois Criminal Justice
3 Information Authority and the R3 Board have committed up
4 to \$35,000,000 as a set aside for reentry services, civil
5 legal aid services, and economic development in order to
6 provide returning residents with support and economic
7 opportunities.

8 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to codify into
9 law a comprehensive and unified statewide reentry program
10 incorporating the existing reentry programs of the Illinois
11 Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Criminal
12 Justice Information Authority that:

13 (1) will meet a returning resident's housing needs and
14 is community-based;

15 (2) includes ongoing active involvement by formerly
16 incarcerated persons;

17 (3) provides a mix of transitional and permanent
18 affordable housing units, rental subsidies, and reentry
19 services supported by sustained and adequate funding; and

20 (4) will have a positive long-term return on
21 investment for this State.

22 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

23 "Board" means the Home for Good Oversight Board.

24 "ICJIA" means the Illinois Criminal Justice Information
25 Authority.

1 "IDOC" means the Illinois Department of Corrections.

2 "IHDA" means the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

3 "Institute" means the Home for Good Institute.

4 "Program" means the Home for Good Program.

5 "Targeted population" means persons with arrest and
6 conviction records and persons who are currently or formerly
7 incarcerated.

8 Section 15. Home for Good Program. The Home for Good
9 Program is created as a statewide coordinated program designed
10 to provide housing and services to the targeted population.
11 The Program shall contain the following elements:

12 (1) IHDA shall be responsible for providing
13 appropriate resources to potential applicants to acquire,
14 develop, and rehabilitate permanent affordable housing
15 units and transitional housing units that are designated
16 exclusively for the targeted population. The granting and
17 application process shall follow the existing program
18 model of the Housing for Justice Involved Individuals
19 Program. IHDA shall also be responsible for providing
20 site-based rental housing subsidies to community
21 organizations that work with the targeted population which
22 may be used to enter into lease agreements and master
23 lease agreements for the purpose of providing housing for
24 program participants and tenant-based rental subsidies.

25 (2) ICJIA shall provide appropriate resources to

1 community organizations who work with the targeted
2 population. These resources shall be used to provide case
3 management and reentry navigation services to Program
4 participants. In addition, these resources shall be used
5 to make supportive services available to Program
6 participants. Services may include housing and related
7 services, physical and behavioral health, education,
8 family reunification and relationship building,
9 transportation, job training, acquiring vital documents,
10 and meeting basic needs.

11 (3) The Program shall require that a housing needs
12 assessment tool is administered to all individuals exiting
13 IDOC custody no later than 12 months prior to their
14 release date. The assessment shall be administered by a
15 community-based organization with demonstrable expertise
16 in reentry services, behavioral health, and permanent and
17 transitional affordable housing. The housing needs
18 assessment shall determine an individual's vulnerability
19 to housing instability or homelessness, and the assessment
20 shall identify the individual's behavioral health needs.
21 The purpose of the behavioral health element of the
22 assessment is to help potential participants successfully
23 secure housing and shall not be used as a reason to exclude
24 potential participants from the Program.

25 (4) The Executive Directors of IHDA and ICJIA and the
26 Director of IDOC shall jointly create the Interagency Home

1 for Good Division. The Interagency Home for Good Division
2 shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of
3 the Program and designed to serve the housing and support
4 service needs of the targeted population.

5 (5) The Executive Director of IHDA shall create the
6 Home for Good Institute. The Home for Good Institute shall
7 provide training and technical assistance to community
8 organizations who intend to acquire, develop,
9 rehabilitate, or operate permanent and transitional
10 housing units for the targeted population. Community
11 organizations that successfully complete the training from
12 the Institute shall be awarded additional points on any
13 applications for funding from IHDA, including the Home for
14 Good Program.

15 (6) The Home for Good Oversight Board is created for
16 the purposes of fostering collaboration between ICJIA,
17 IHDA, and IDOC and between these State agencies and
18 community-based organizations, and to ensure the equitable
19 provision of resources for affordable housing and support
20 services throughout the State based upon the geographic
21 distribution of incarcerated people exiting IDOC. The
22 Governor shall appoint members, unless otherwise
23 specified, not to exceed 25, to the Home for Good
24 Oversight Board. The Board shall be chaired by the chair
25 of the R3 Board, or his or her designee, and staffed by
26 ICJIA and IHDA personnel. Members of this Board shall

1 include:

2 (A) the Executive Director of ICJIA or his or her
3 designee;

4 (B) the Executive Director of IHDA or his or her
5 designee;

6 (C) the Director of IDOC or his or her designee;

7 (D) the Reentry Director at the Department of
8 Human Services or his or her designee;

9 (E) the Director of Reentry for the City of
10 Chicago or his or her designee;

11 (F) the Executive Director of the Illinois
12 Sentencing Policy Advisory Council or his or her
13 designee;

14 (G) the Chief Homelessness Officer or his or her
15 designee;

16 (H) 5 reentry advocates, at least 3 of whom must be
17 previously incarcerated; however, advocates who are
18 officers, members, or employees of entities that
19 receive money through the Program are not eligible for
20 appointment to the Board;

21 (I) one representative of an affordable housing
22 development organization;

23 (J) one representative of an affordable housing
24 advocacy organization;

25 (K) one reentry researcher;

26 (L) 5 community members with proportional

1 representation from urban, suburban, and rural areas
2 throughout the State; and

3 (M) one person each appointed by:

4 (i) the President of the Senate;

5 (ii) the Minority Leader of the Senate;

6 (iii) the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives; and

8 (iv) the Minority Leader of the House of
9 Representatives.

10 At least 5 of the up to 25 members appointed to the
11 Board by the Governor shall have personally experienced
12 incarceration and reentry.

13 (7) The Home for Good Oversight Board shall monitor
14 the operation of the Interagency Home for Good Division
15 and the Home for Good Institute and ensure that the
16 Program fosters collaboration among State agencies and
17 community organizations, and establish a network of
18 housing providers and service providers for the Program.

19 (8) The Home for Good Oversight Board shall annually
20 submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a public
21 report containing data on the number of persons served,
22 the effectiveness of the Program as measured by criteria
23 established by the Home for Good Oversight Board, the
24 amount and type of housing made available through the
25 Program, the return on investment generated through
26 savings and economic activity resulting from the

1 implementation of the Program, a forecast of the number of
2 people exiting State prisons who are at risk of
3 experiencing housing instability and homelessness each
4 fiscal year, and a forecast of the number of affordable
5 homes needed to meet the needs of Program participants.

6 Section 20. Rules. IHDA, ICJIA, and IDOC shall jointly
7 adopt rules to implement this Act. The rules must describe how
8 a housing needs assessment will be administered by
9 community-based organizations with expertise in providing
10 reentry services and permanent and transitional housing to
11 persons incarcerated in IDOC no later than 12 months prior to
12 their release date.

13 The rules must describe how a housing needs assessment
14 will make the determinations described in paragraph (3) of
15 Section 15.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law."